

CHAPTER C6

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C6.00 Maintenance Storm Water Pollution Prevention Policy

Caltrans Maintenance is assigned the care and upkeep of State highways. Maintenance uses methods that protect the environment and State's investment while providing a traveling public with a safe and usable highway system.

Within the State highways and other Caltrans facilities, Maintenance will:

- (A) Use methods and materials that will minimize impact on storm water runoff, as described in this chapter, in the Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbook - Maintenance Staff Guide, and in District guidelines.
- (B) Follow all appropriate State, Federal and local laws and regulations regarding water quality.
- (C) Meet all requirements of Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) orders.

Maintenance will adapt its program to meet changes in law and to keep current as new technologies are developed.

C6.01 Responsible Parties

The Maintenance Program is responsible for developing this chapter and for making revisions as needed. This chapter provides the Maintenance policy regarding water quality.

In conjunction with the Environmental Program, Maintenance has developed the Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbook – Maintenance Staff Guide (“Staff Guide”). The Staff Guide is the guidance document that provides detailed descriptions of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water pollution prevention in maintenance activities, and instruction for implementation of these practices in the Districts.

The Maintenance Program will coordinate with the Environmental Program, the designated lead for Caltrans storm water issues, to ensure that this chapter and other guidance documents are not in conflict with Departmental policy.

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The following persons are responsible for implementing the Maintenance storm water quality policy:

- (A) The Maintenance Program Manager issues Statewide policies, procedures and guidelines for Maintenance storm water quality issues. The Program Manager will ensure that the Maintenance Program has coordinated with the Environmental Program as appropriate.
- (B) The Statewide Maintenance Storm Water Coordinator is the liaison with the Environmental Program. He or she provides guidance to District NPDES (or Storm Water) Coordinators regarding water quality issues. The Statewide Storm Water Coordinator is responsible for overseeing development of storm water guidance documents used by Maintenance.
- (C) The District Division Chief of Maintenance and Operations reports to the District Director and is responsible for the Maintenance Division. He or she has direct supervision over Maintenance Managers I and II. The Maintenance Division is responsible for maintenance of the highway system, operation of Maintenance facilities, and response to spills of hazardous and non-hazardous materials on Caltrans rights of way.
- (D) The District NPDES (or Storm Water) Coordinator provides support to District Maintenance Division personnel in implementing storm water quality protection practices.
- (E) The District Hazmat Coordinator or Hazmat Specialist coordinates response to spills of hazardous substances on Caltrans rights of way and coordinates management of self-generated waste. The Coordinator or Specialist is usually responsible for providing training information associated with hazardous materials, and may be responsible for assisting in implementation of some storm water quality protection practices in the District.
- (F) The District Landscape Specialist provides guidance regarding use of pesticides and chemical control of vegetation in field maintenance operations. The Landscape Specialist is responsible for ensuring that all chemicals used in the District are approved by regulatory agencies.
- (G) Maintenance Managers I and II with field responsibility, direct maintenance activities within regions of the district. Each region is subdivided into maintenance areas. The Region Manager provides direct supervision to the Area Superintendents within his or her region.

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- (H) Area Maintenance Superintendents and Structural Steel Superintendents direct maintenance activities within Maintenance Areas and provide direct supervision to supervisors. Areas contain multiple maintenance facilities.
 - (I) All Maintenance Supervisors (Road, Landscape, Special Crews and Structural Steel) are responsible for first line supervision of maintenance employees' assignments. Such training includes issues related to compliance with storm water quality. Supervisors provide on the job training to their crews to meet specific water quality requirements.

The term "NPDES" refers to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, described under C6.02. For detailed descriptions of terms and acronyms commonly used in documents related to storm water, see the Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbook – Maintenance Staff Guide, Appendix A: Abbreviations, Acronyms and Definitions of Terms.

C6.02 Background and Legal Requirements

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) is the national program for administering and regulating discharges to receiving waters according to the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1972. In 1987, amendments to the CWA added Section 402 (p), which establishes a framework for regulating municipal and industrial storm water discharge, including storm water runoff from Caltrans highways and facilities.

Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 122, Section 26 (40 CFR 122.26) requires the issuance of NPDES permits for the discharge of storm water from large and medium sized municipalities, industrial facilities and construction sites.

In some districts, waste-water NPDES permits may be required instead of municipal storm water permits. Only eight counties in the state currently fall under municipal storm water guidelines as described above. Local regulatory agencies vary in their requirements. The District NPDES Coordinator can provide guidance as to the requirements that apply in each District.

The regulations define "municipal separate storm sewer" as a conveyance or system of conveyances, including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains.

As the responsible agency for the construction, operation and maintenance of the highways and facilities within the State, Caltrans is considered a "discharger" to waters of the United States. The storm water runoff from this roadway system is discharged by way of storm water collection and conveyance systems. These discharges are potential contributors of pollutants to waters of the United States.

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The issuance of general, individual, system-wide, jurisdiction-wide, and area-wide NPDES permits to regulate storm water discharges is allowed by federal regulations.

In California, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), authorized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has issued a general permit for storm water discharges associated with construction activities statewide. A jurisdiction-wide approach is used to regulate and control storm water runoff from Caltrans-owned facilities and construction sites for municipal permits.

There are nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) in California. The RWQCB region boundaries do not correspond with those of counties or Caltrans districts. Districts obtain municipal, waste-water or other NPDES permits, from the appropriate RWQCB(s), either alone or jointly with one or more districts within the RWQCB region.

Caltrans is currently negotiating with the SWRCB for a statewide NPDES permit. When this permit is in place, it will supersede all regional permits and will be effective in all Districts.

C6.03 Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbook – Maintenance Staff Guide

The Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbook – Maintenance Staff Guide (Staff Guide) is the key document in the Maintenance effort to protect water resources. That document provides detailed instructions for incorporating Best Management Practices (BMPs) in maintenance activities.

The key components of the Staff Guide are:

- (A) Objectives of Maintenance Storm Water Program.
- (B) Pollutants of Concern for Highway Maintenance Activities and Facilities.
- (C) Incorporation of Storm Water Controls into Maintenance Programs and Activities.
- (D) Program Evaluation.
- (E) Detailed Maintenance Best Management Practices (BMPs) for use in field maintenance activities, both at maintenance stations and for each type of maintenance operation.